

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 540

Encouraging all 50 States to recognize and accommodate the release of public school pupils from school attendance to attend off-campus religious classes at their churches, synagogues, houses of worship, and faith-based organizations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24, 2006

Mr. DEMINT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Encouraging all 50 States to recognize and accommodate the release of public school pupils from school attendance to attend off-campus religious classes at their churches, synagogues, houses of worship, and faith-based organizations.

Whereas the free exercise of religion is an inherent, fundamental, and inalienable right secured by the 1st amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the free exercise of religion is important to the intellectual, moral, civic, and ethical development of students in the United States;

Whereas the free exercise of religion must be conducted in a constitutionally appropriate manner;

Whereas, in *Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306 (1952), the United States Supreme Court held that a statute that provides for the release of public school pupils from school attendance to attend religious classes is constitutional if—

(1) the programs take place away from school grounds;

(2) school officials do not promote attendance at religious classes; and

(3) the solicitation of students to attend is not done at the expense of public schools; and

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the States allow the school districts of the States to release public school pupils from school attendance to attend religious classes: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) calls on all 50 States to recognize and ac-
3 commodate those churches, faith-based organiza-
4 tions, and individuals that wish to release public
5 school pupils from school attendance to attend reli-
6 gious classes; and

7 (2) respectfully requests the President of the
8 United States to proclaim the third week of Novem-
9 ber 2006 as “Bible Education in School Time
10 Week”.

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